Revenue raised through education CESS

†4236. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue raised by Government so far from education cess;

(b) the names of programmes on which the said amount is proposed to be utilized; and

(c) the provision made by the Central Government for the State of Madhya Pradesh out of the amount raised from education cess?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) So far as direct taxes are concerned, an amount of Rs. 2510 crores was estimated to be collected by way of education cess in financial year 2004-05. The actual amount collected on account of education cess on direct taxes would be available only after the accounts of the Government for 2004-05 are finalized.

So far as indirect taxes are concerned, the total amount of Education Cess collected from Customs and Central Excise upto December, 2004 is as under:

(*Rs. in crores*)

Head	Customs	Excise	Total
Education Cess	487.74	893.87	1381.61

As per the RE, Education Cess for Service Tax for the year 2004-05 is Rs. 165 crores. The actual amount collected on account of cess on Service Tax is not available.

(b) The whole of the amount collected as cess is meant for education which will include providing a nutritious cooked midday meal.

(c) Cesses and surcharges do not form a part of the sharable pool of taxes.

Withdrawal of deposits by NRIs from banks

4237. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Non-Resident Indians have been pulling out their deposits from the Indian banking system, as revealed by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

latest RBI figures, highlighting that the NRI community has withdrawn $ 1.3 billion from the commercial banks during April-December, 2004, as against a positive inflow of $ 3.7 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons for the sudden reversal in NRI deposits; and

(c) what fresh initiatives are being taken to lure back the NRI community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The NRI deposits with Indian banks are steadily rising since 1991 till 2003-04. During the six months period from April to September, 2004, there was a marginal decline in deposits and the trend was reversed again from October-December, 2004. As on January 2005 (latest available) NRI deposits with Indian banks were USD 32582 million.

NHB's scheme for Tsunami victims

4238. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank has announced a concessional scheme to provide financial assistance to the people affected by Tsunami; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes implemented in Tsunami affected States so far through the National Housing Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (d) The details of National Housing Bank's refinance concessional scheme for the Tsunami affected people are indicated Statement. (*See* below) NHB has not specified any eligibility criteria for the Primary borrowers under the scheme. NHB is extending assistance through the refinancing route. The Primary Lending Institutions availing refinance from NHB are free to identify the affected people and extend concessional finance as per their procedures. The concerned State Governments/Union Territories have been informed about the scheme. However, NHB has not received any proposal so far.